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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	Object 9, SDAG Wismut: Accidents	DATE DISTR.	29 November 1955	25X1 25X1
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PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		
DATE ACQUIRED		This is UNEVALUATED Information		

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

4. Object 9 garage is situated in Schneebergerstrasse, Aue.

Accidents in Object 9

5. The accident in Object 9 on 16 July 1955 was caused by the rubber insulation of an electric cable bursting into flames.¹ The cable was situated on level No. 8 (depth 480 m.) in Schacht 207, near the boundary line between Schacht 207 and 208. The fire started at 2345 hours in an unfrequented area of the level. An attempt was made to get the fire under control without taking drastic measures. The higher

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officials were not in the Schacht at the time. The fire spread too rapidly, and by 0100 hours, the first gassed persons were taken out of Schacht 250. At 0345 hours, the order was given to evacuate all Schachte of Objects 9 and 2.

6. All cables in level 8 of Schacht 207 were burnt out, together with nearly all the wooden construction on this level. The installations and hauling equipment of Blindschacht 208B (a hauling Schacht connecting levels 4 to 8) were destroyed.
7. As a result of the fire, Schacht 207, 208, 250, 66, and 13 stopped work for a week. By 20 August, all levels of Schacht 207 were being worked again, and new cables were being fitted. Blindschacht 208B will remain out of action until late October.
8. Some criticism among the miners of the Object leadership is being privately expressed: it is thought that the evacuation order was delayed too long for fear of a drop in production. [redacted] not a single life need have been lost had evacuation taken place earlier.
9. Two other fires have occurred in the Object since July 16. On 21 July in level 4 of Schacht 13, an electric cable caught fire, but the fire was quickly extinguished. On the 12 August, a cable in Schacht 207, level 2, caught fire. On this occasion, work at Schachte 207, 13, 186, and 66 stopped for about 2 hours. In neither of these two fires was anyone injured.

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